THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Thursday No.2
August 18, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:00 Miss Mirrielees: Substance-- in Relation to Time

10:15 Mr. DeVoto: The Invisible Novelist

11:30 Mr. Pratt: Non-Fiction: the First Stage

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: The Value of Bad Poetry

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Sloane will be the evening speaker. His topic: What is there to write about?

BOOKSTORE HOURS

The Bookstore, next door to the Director's Office, carries books by Conference staff and members, and limited stationery supplies. It will be open, daily except Sundays, 8:40 - 9:10 a.m., 1:30 - 2:00 p.m., and 6:50 - 7:20 p.m.

LIBRARY

The Bread Loaf Library, down the walk past the Little Theatre, will be open a half hour after each meal.

CONFERENCE FELLOWS

Will all of the Fellows kindly meet with Dean Pratt in Treman Parlour at four o'clock this afternoon for introductory discipline in their duties, formal and informal?

NEWSPAPERS

The N. Y. Times and Herald Tribune, daily or Sunday, may be ordered in the Bookstore. Orders should be placed today for delivery beginning Friday.

TAXI FARES

In the confusion of yesterday's arrival, sevral members who were brought to Bread Loaf in taxis were not charged for their fares. Will those concerned kindly make the small payment at the front desk?

LOST

A valued pipe and pouch were lost by Mr. Pratt along the walk to the Little Theatre. Kindly return to the front desk?

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Friday No.3
August 19, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:00 Mrs. Everitt: Story Writing

10:15 Mr. DeVoto: The Movement of Fiction

11:30 Mr. Sloane: The Narrative Element in Nonfiction Books

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: Some Techniques of Poetry

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Campbell will speak this evening. His topic: American Radio: Here We Stand

SQUARE DANCE

Young fry roundabouts have been seeking out fiddlers and callers and it looks most likely there'll be a country-like dance out back in the Barn tonight at 9:30. Everyone put on low heels and come out to see. Just bring along a silver bit to throw on the drum for the musicians, fetch out the blue jeans and don't be shy.

BOOKS ON DISPLAY

Mr. Donald Putnam, Bookstore Manager, will exhibit books of interest to Conference members in the Blue Room, by the Director's Office, this afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00. His stock includes many titles by members of the staff and Conference.

NEWSPAPERS

Members who have ordered newspapers may pick them up at the Bookstore from 12:30 to 12:50 daily. The Bookstore will open at this time for this purpose solely.

LIBRARY HOURS: CORRECTION

The Library will be open daily from 10 to 12 a.m. and from 4 to 5 p.m.

NO PARKING, PLEASE

A state law prohibits parking on the highway in front of the Inn and cottages. Members are requested to use the parking lots in front of the Barn and beyond Maple.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Saturday
August 20, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:00 Miss Mirrielees: Time-- in its Relation to Implication

10:15 Mr. DeVoto: Toward an End

11:30 Mr. Pratt: Non-Fiction: The Material

EVENING MEETING

8:00 Mr. Frost will be the speaker this evening.

BARN SCHEDULE

The counter in the Barn is open daily at the following hours: 9:00 -- 11:30 a.m., 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., and 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday mornings the counter will open at 9:30.

CONFERENCE NURSE

Mrs. Jane Wilkinson, R. N., is available for consultation by Conference members for a period after each meal hour in the dispensary in Maple #2. At other times she is on call via the front desk.

BOOKSTORE SERVICE

Members who wish books autographed by authors present at Bread Loaf should place an identifying slip in such books and leave them with the Bookstore Manager. It is a convenience to the authors to be able to sign a number of books at one time.

LOST

Lost and found articles may be reported or turned in at the front desk. Will members walking in the vicinity of the Little Theatre be so good as to keep an eye out for Mr. Sloane's wrist watch, which he lost there after his lecture on Thursday night?

SUMMARY OF MAGAZINE SUBJECTS

Additional copies of Mr. Pratt's summary of magazine subjects are available in the Director's Office.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Sunday No.5
August 21, 1949.

NOTICES

Taxi to Middlebury: Conference members who wish to go to Middlebury for church services may sign at the front desk for the 9:15 trip of the Inn taxi. Round trip: $1.00

Laundry: Members may leave laundry at the front desk, to be returned on Thursday or Friday. This service has proved satisfactory, but the management assumes no responsibility.

Fraud: The front desk regrets that certain members were badly overcharged on a recent taxi trip. Will the persons concerned kindly apply at the desk for a rebate?

Found: Will the member who lost a piece of folding money on the main Inn staircase kindly apply for it at the front desk?

Washingtonians: Will members from Washington and vicinity kindly meet with Commander Wm Lederer at 10 o'clock this morning in the Blue Room near the Director's Office? Mr. Lee Grove of the Washington Post will be present.

VISITORS TO THE CONFERENCE

The Conference is fortunate in having friends who visit it from time to time and take informal part in its meetings. Such visitors during the next few days include:

Mr. Robeson Bailey, veteran teacher of writing at Harvard, Radcliffe, Smith, and the University of Oregon, formerly a Fellow and staff member of the Conference, author and editor of A Man and His Meals, Technique in Article Writing, and Facts in Fiction, contributor to outdoor periodicals, who will take part in some of the article clinics.

Mr. Alan C. Collins, president of Curtis Brown, Ltd., literary agents, who will take part in discussions and interviews.

Mr. Alfred C. Edwards, executive of Henry Holt & Co., publishers of many prominent works by Bread Loaf authors.

Mr. William Raney, editor of Rinehart & Co., who will share in the consultations with Conference writers of novels.

Catherine Stewart, novelist, Conference Fellow in 1944.

THE CONFERENCE FELLOWS, 1949

The Conference each year offers a limited number of fellowships to writers recommended by publishers, editors, agents or other sponsors. Some of these fellowships have been made possible by support outside the Conference itself, and we wish to make grateful acknowledgement of this support, past and present, from

individuals who know of our work, from publishing houses, and from the Navy League.

We welcome the following Conference Fellows this year:

Lucy Herndon Crockett, born in Honolulu and educated in America, Europe and South America, has published three children's books (Holt, 1939 - 1940), and a book, Popcorn on the Ginza, on the occupation of Japan (Sloane Associates, 1949). She was with the Red Cross in Japan 1943 - 1947, and has resided since in Mexico and Texas. She is interested at present in the magazine story.

Major Andrew Geer, U. S. M. C., is a Minnesotan whose career includes six years as a sailor, magazine writing for the Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, Redbook, and the American, service in Africa in the British 8th Army and in the Pacific in the Marine Corps, two books (Mercy in Hell and The Sea Chase, Harpers, 1948), and scouting for professional football teams. He is attached now to Marine Corps Headquarters. His fellowship at Bread Loaf is sponsored by the Navy League.

Firman Houghton, a Pennsylvanian educated at Exeter and Harvard, was a naval aviator during the war and has engaged since in business and in writing. His poems have appeared in the Saturday Evening Post. Outside of his poetry, he has completed a play and a novel. He is currently much interested in the theater.

Caroline Ivey, a Contributor in the Conference last year, is an Alabaman and a graduate of Auburn and of Vanderbilt. Nominated by Mr. Guthrie for her stories of southern farm life, she is now working on a novel set in the same scene.

Lieut. Arnold S. Lott, U. S. N., has his home, with his wife and two children, in San Diego, California. Writing and painting have been his hobbies for several years. He held a Conference Fellowship, sponsored by the Navy League, in 1947, and would have returned under the same auspices in 1948 but that the ship to which he was attached at the time was frozen in the Arctic. He is present now under the terms of this unexpired fellowship. His literary work is in the short story and in free style verse.

Robert Mende, of Brooklyn, N. Y., published his first book this year. Spit and the Stars, (Rinehart & Co.), a novel of Brooklyn life, has been translated into Danish and selected for publication by a Czechoslovakian book club. He holds his fellowship for the second year, and is engaged upon another novel.

Sylvia Shirley, a New Yorker with experience in factory work, secretarial work, and publicity for moving picture concerns and for the A. F. of L., has published stories in Harper's, Redbook and Collier's. One of her stories was selected by Martha Foley for The Best Short Stories of 1947 and was later published in England and translated into the Swedish. Miss Shirley is at work upon a novel.

Richard Spong, a graduate of Dartmouth, has seen life as a newspaperman, press agent, soldier and college teacher. He is now a free lance writer. His novel See If He Wins will be published in September by William Sloane Associates.

Era Bell Thompson, now of Chicago, was brought up in North Dakota and Iowa and is a graduate of Morningside College in Iowa. In 1933 she was a member of the Olympic Team in the dash and hurdles though, because of illness, she failed to make the voyage. After some years in the Civil Service she was awarded a Newbury Fellowship and was enabled to complete her autobiographical book, American Daughter (University of Chicago Press). Since that time she has been associate editor of Negro Digest and Ebony. Her work in progress, a humorous book on negro journalism, will be called The Fifth Estate.

THE CRUMB

Vol. XXIV Monday No.6
August 22, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:00 Mrs. Everitt: The Parting of the Ways

10:15 Mr. Sloane: The First Ten Pages

11:30 Mr. DeVoto: Modern Pamphleteering

2:30 Mr. Morrison: Getting One's Bearings in Verse Writing

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Pratt will be the speaker this evening. His topic: The History of History

MAGAZINE DISPLAY

A large collection of magazines of all kinds is now on display in the Barn. As this has been arranged for the convenience of the whole Conference, members are asked not to remove copies from the Clubroom.

BOOKSTORE

Copies of the limited edition of Mr. Frost's Collected Poems can be inspected in the Bookstore. As it will be convenient to send in all orders for this book at one time, members wishing to place orders are asked to do so before tomorrow evening.

WASH DAY

Tubs and ironing boards are available in the laundry in the rear basement of Hoi Polloi Cottage. Irons may be borrowed at the front desk.

CASHING CHECKS

Members who wish to cash checks before the end of the session should consult the front desk immediately. It is impossible to cash checks which cannot be cleared through the home banks before August 31.

THE CRUMB

VOL.XXIV Tuesday August 23, 1949. No.7

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:00 Miss Mirrielees: Point of Observation-- in Relation to Readers

10:15 Mr. Guthrie: You and Your Characters

11:30 Mr. Pratt: Style

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: We Must Labor to be Beautiful.

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Guthrie will be the speaker this evening. His topic: Inventory

SEMINAR ON RADIO WRITING

4:00 Mr. Campbell will be present in the Barn at four o'clock this afternoon to meet with members who wish to discuss radio writing and free lance markets.

BACK DOOR BETTER

Bread Loaf custom permits late arrival at morning lectures and informal departure when plans for the day necessitate it. As latecomers to the lectures have caused a degree of confusion, however, may The Crumb counsel promptness if possible and, if not, quiet entrance through one of the rear doors of the Theater?

TAXI SERVICE

The Bread Loaf taxi is available for rides around the countryside as well as for trips to Middlebury. The front desk will provide information concerning rates and reservations.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Wednesday No.8
August 24, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Short Story Clinic: William Hazlitt Upson , assistod by Mrs. Everitt and Miss Mirrielees

11:00 Novel Clinic: Messrs. DeVoto, Guthrie, Raney and Sloane

2:30 Verse Clinic: Mr. Ciardi

EVENING MEETING

8:00 Mr. Ciardi will read from his poems this evening.

RADIO SCRIPTS

Will Contributors who wish Mr. Campbell's advice on radio scripts kindly turn them in at the Director's Office during the day? If enough are submitted, a clinic on them can be held, as well as individual interviews.

ASPHYXIATION

If not inconvenient to them, will smokers of the more aromatic tobaccos, in pipes and cigars, kindly sit to the rear of the hall or hard by the lee rail?

LOST AND FOUND

Will the owner of a gold compact kindly apply for it at the front desk? -- A plain black Waterman's fountain pen was lost in the vicinity of the Theater or Library.

DEMI-TASSE

Coffee will be served after dinner this evening in the Blue Room.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Thursday No.9
August 25, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Non-Fiction Clinic: Mr. Pratt, with Mrs. Everitt, Miss Thompson and Mr. Bordner, will sit as an editorial board to consider ideas or titles submitted as appropriate for magazine articles. Members are urged to submit ideas for consideration, either in writing or from the floor.

11:00 Miss Mirrielees: Character and Characteristic--with Some Preliminaries

2:30 Verse Clinic: Mr. Ciardi

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. DeVoto will speak this evening.His topic will be: Mist, Mirage and Idea

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE SPANISH

At the request of members who did not see the notice of her first reading, Miss Eleanor Turnbull will read this evening, following the lecture, from her translations from Spanish poetry. The reading will be held in the Blue Room.

CONTROVERSIAL

An anonymous donor has offered a prize of one plug of Old Motorman Chewing Mixture to that member of the Conference who supplies the best final line for the limerick printed in part below. Entries will be collected at the front desk.

There are women who do not like pipes,
Which is one of a long list of gripes.
Let a man woo the Muses
With a pipe if he chooses
.....

EXHIBITION OF BOOKS

Mr. Putnam will display books from his stock in the Blue Room this evening from 6:45 to 8:00. Several additional items have come in since the last exhibition.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Friday No.10
August 26, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Novel Clinic: Mr. Sloane

11:00 Mr. Pratt: Organization and Interview

2:30 Mr. Frost will conduct the poetry meeting.

4:00 Major Geer: The War Experience of a Writer

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Morrison will be the speaker this evening. His topic: Take Every Man His Turn

BOOKSTORE NOTES

Books newly in stock: Miss Mirrielees' Story Writer and Mr. Morrison's The Devious Way. ** Copies of Mr. Frost's poems to be autographed by him should be left in the Bookstore before 2:00 p.m. today.

VARIORUM

Of the proposed last lines for yesterday's limerick, all of them anonymously submitted, a large anonymous committee of critics has judged the following best:

There are women who do not like pipes,
Which is one of a long list of gripes.
Let a man woo the Muses
With a pipe if he chooses
While the women go out and hunt snipes.

Second prize: And beware of old maids of all types.

Excluded for profanity:
And to hell with such women, by cripes!

Excluded for betrayal of form:
Which means the minority rules us.

RECALLED BY POPULAR REQUEST

The dance band which performed to such tumultuous applause last week will play for another square dance this evening in the Barn. The time: 9:30. The place: the Barn. You supply the rest.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Saturday No.11
August 27, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Mrs. Everitt: Short Story Clinic (Will members who wish to present short story ideas for discussion write them out briefly and hand them in at the beginning of the hour?)

11:00 Nannine Joseph: Why An Agent?

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 The speaker this evening will be Catherine Drinker Bowen. Her topic: Techniques of Biography

COUNTRY LIFE AND BALL GAME

Members and staff are invited to the Frost farm this afternoon around 2:30 for a visit and ball game. Walkers will make the distance in about twenty minutes; non-walkers may ride the truck, which will leave the Inn door at 2:15. A picked squad of hoi polloi will take on the Conference All-Stars at softball. Will members intending to pay the call kindly sign the sheet posted near the Director's office so that an estimate can be made for the truck and for refreshments.

BLUE CARDS

Some members who did not fill in registration or room cards on the opening day will find these cards in their boxes, as they are needed to complete the records of the Summer Schools Secretary. Kindly return them to the Director's office.

RIDE TO N. Y.?

A Conference girl inquires whether any member is driving to New York on Monday. If there is an extra seat, she would appreciate information left in P. O. Box 88.

BOOKS READY

All except one or two of the books left in the Bookstore to be autographed are now ready. Will the owners please inquire at the Bookstore?

SHORT HIKE TOMORROW

Desk clerk Dick Haseltine will lead a short hike on Sunday. Walkers will leave the Inn porch at 9:00 a.m. and return in time for lunch. Bring cameras and binoculars.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Sunday No.12
August 28, 1949.

SHORT HIKE TODAY

Members are reminded of the morning walk, led by desk clerk and photographer Dick Haseltine, on which the group will leave the Inn porch at 9:00 and return in time for lunch. The Crumb is assured that the pace will not be rapid nor the climbing Alpine.

NEWSPAPERS

The Bookstore will be closed today, but the newspapers will be available after 12:30 at the front desk.

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN

Word reaches The Crumb that Jack Bours, debonair and personable manager of the counter in the Barn, is heading westward at the close of the Conference and that he would appreciate a ride either to Minnesota or California. He would be glad to share expenses.

CONCERT TONIGHT

8:00 The Writers' Conference will have the pleasure this evening of a visit and concert by members of the Middlebury College Composers' Conference and Chamber Music Center, which is currently in session at the College under the leadership of Professor Alan Carter, conductor of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. The program will include compositions by musicians at the Composers' Conference, and will conclude with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto N.4 in G Major.

THE CRUMB

Vol.XXIV Tuesday No.14
August 30, 1949.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Mr. DeVoto: The Novel: A Summary

11:00 Mr. Pratt: Final Round-up

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: Verse Clinic

BANQUET

6:30 The dining-room will open this evening for the Conference Banquet at six-thirty. The after-dinner speaking will be brief.

GROUP PICTURES

Group pictures of the staff and of the fellows have been taken, and although prints cannot be obtained in time for display, they are reported to be satisfactory. These may be ordered at 75¢ each. Will members wishing to order these prints kindly enclose order, name, address and correct change in an envelope and leave in the Director's Office?

BOOKSTORE: Warning

The Bookstore will close, finally and irrevocably, at 9:10 a.m. tomorrow. Please come in today for books you have left for autographing.

NEW ADDRESS

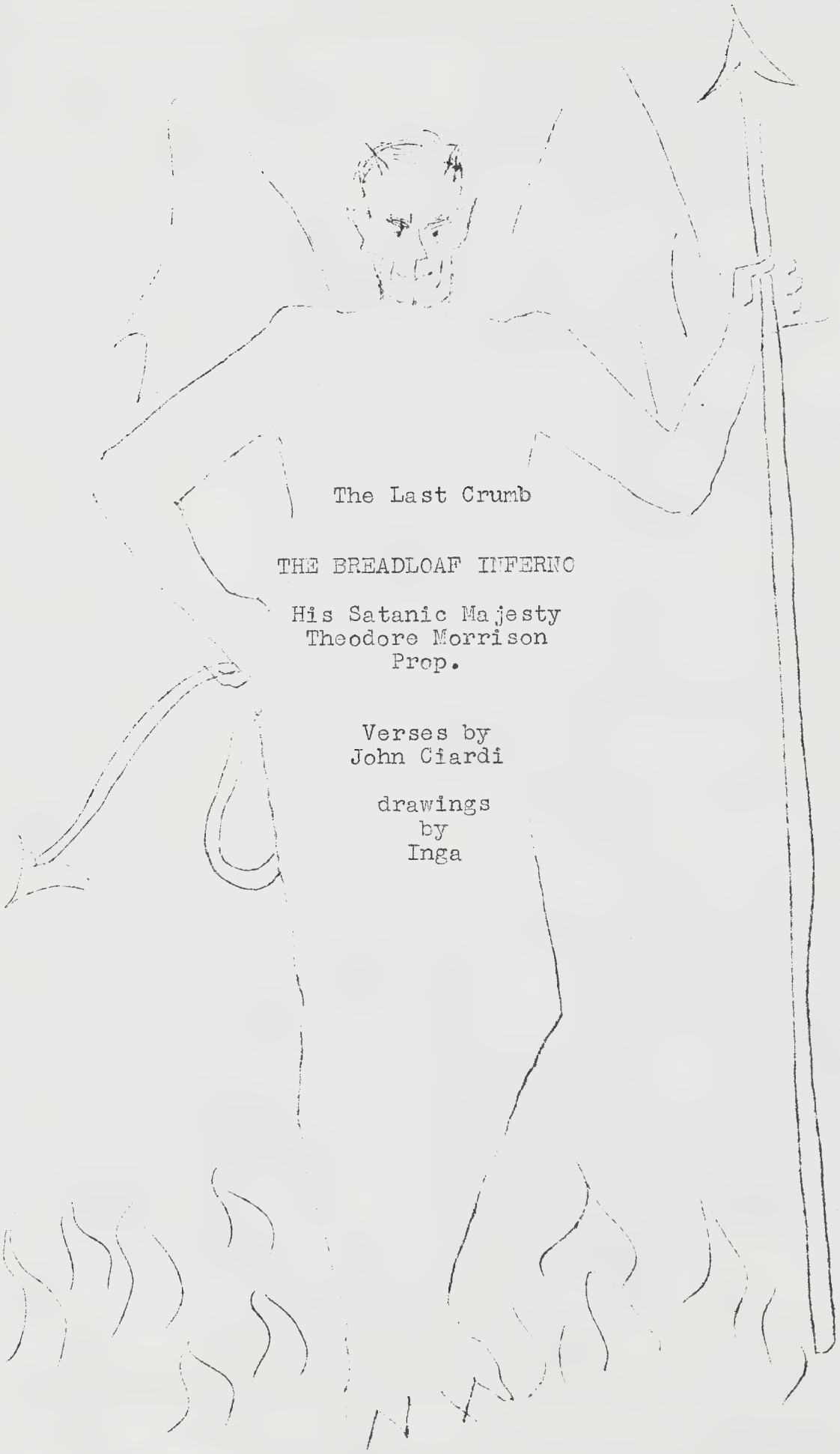
Address lists should be corrected as follows:
Mrs. Dorothy Hammar, 1725 Lanier Place,N.W., Apt.39C,
Washington 9, D.C.

LIBRARY: Exhortation

Kindly tie a string around your finger about those books!

PROGRAM TOMORROW

The final meeting of the Conference will be a joint discussion tomorrow morning, beginning at 9:30, at which most members of the staff will be present. The meeting will end at 11:00 or 11:30, but members who are packing for their trip or whose taxis leave during the morning should feel free to enter or leave the meeting at their convenience.



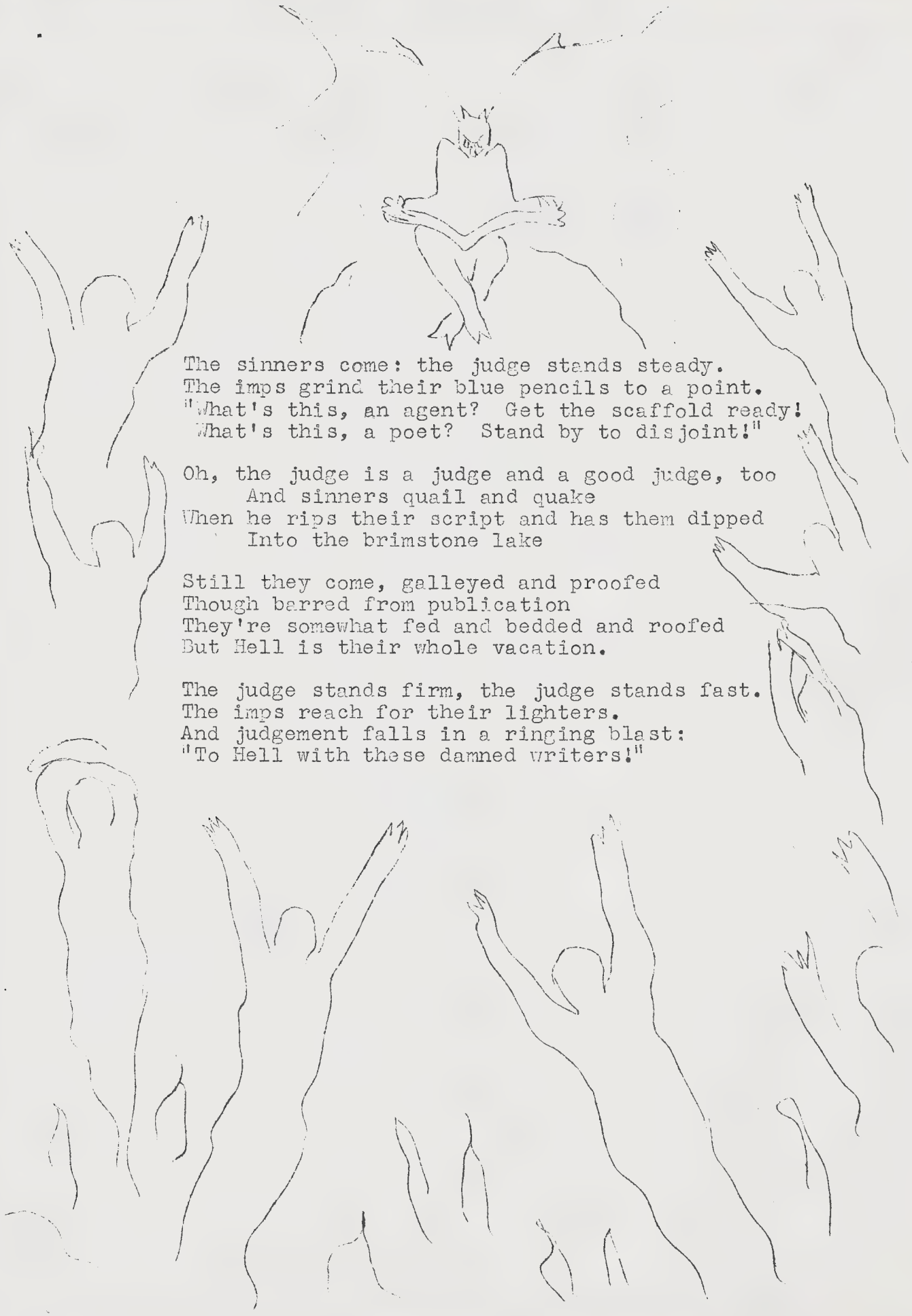
The Last Crumb

THE BREADLOAF INFERNO

His Satanic Majesty
Theodore Morrison
Prop.

Verses by
John Ciardi

drawings
by
Inga



The sinners come: the judge stands steady.
The imps grind their blue pencils to a point.
"What's this, an agent? Get the scaffold ready!
What's this, a poet? Stand by to disjoint!"

Oh, the judge is a judge and a good judge, too
And sinners quail and quake
When he rips their script and has them dipped
Into the brimstone lake

Still they come, galleyed and proofed
Though barred from publication
They're somewhat fed and bedded and roofed
But Hell is their whole vacation.

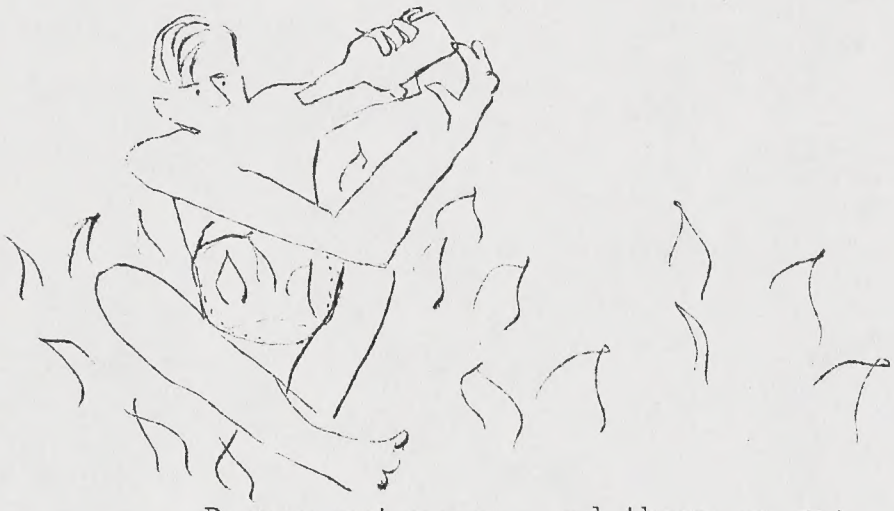
The judge stands firm, the judge stands fast.
The imps reach for their lighters.
And judgement falls in a ringing blast:
"To Hell with these damned writers!"

The first to doom is Benny D:
Through the vestibule of hell
He runs through all eternity
Under a frightful spell:
Dreaming the Wolfes pursue and rend him.
Look downward, angels, and befriend him.

Next, an amiable figure sits
the gates
Beyond which all damnation
waits:
Ah, Helen, Helen, is it you
Impaled upon a point of View?

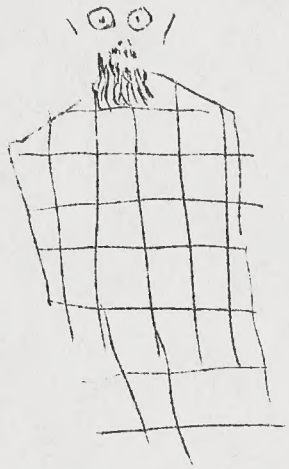
Now through the gate, each in his proper hell,
We find the spirits; each a tale to tell.
And here among the gluttons, drunk and hardy,
A murky shape arises and is Ciardi.

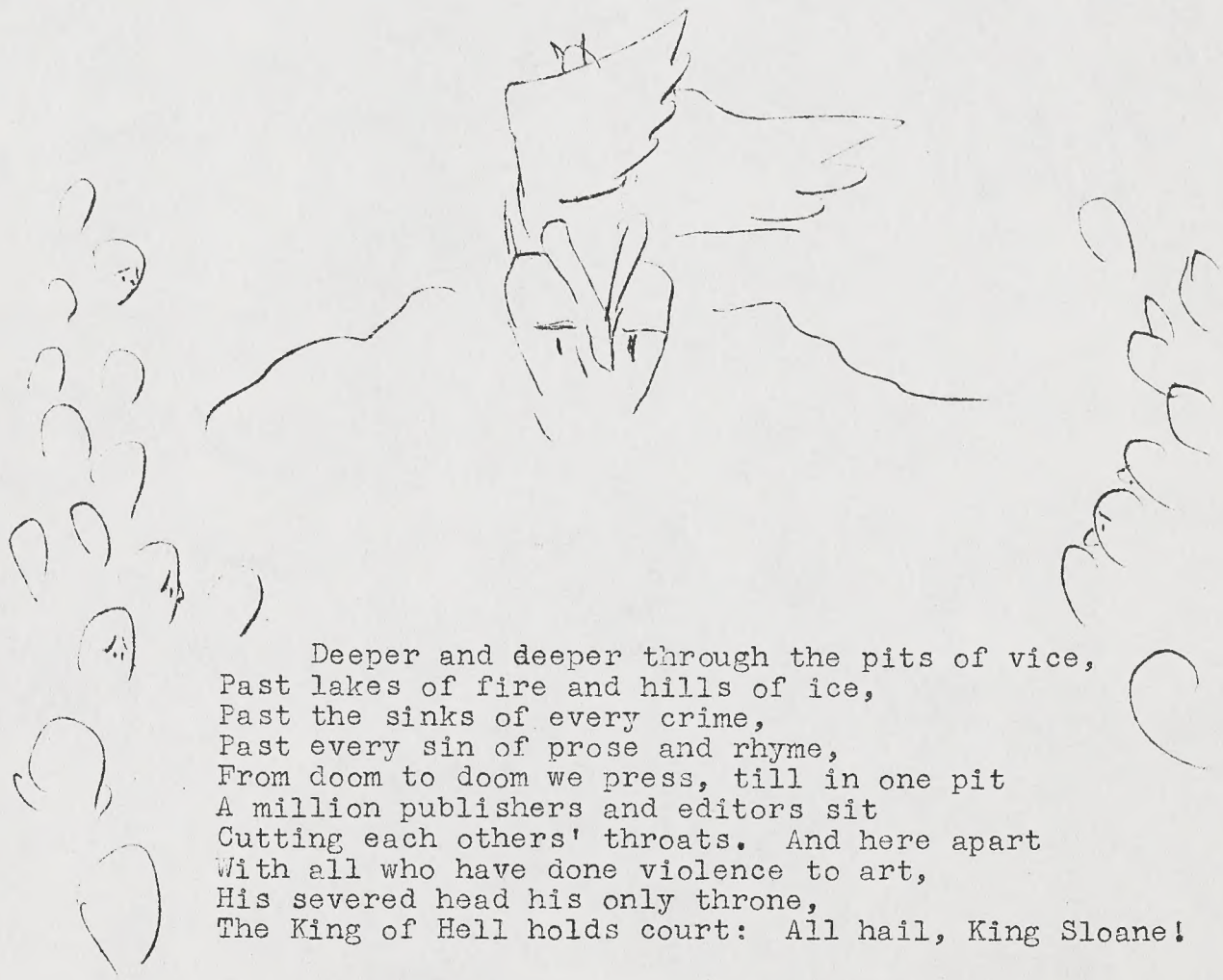
Doomed to appetite, but with no stomach,
He sits and groans upon a redhot hummock
Tilting a bottle. It gurgles but won't pour.
It's Hell, but it's better than prose, and that's
for sure.



Deeper yet we go, and there we see
Bud Guthrie wandering through eternity,
His head on backward. Everywhere he goes
He looks for poetry, but stumbles into prose,
And rises bruised, but still he sings, "Hosanna!"
It's Hell, but still it's better than Montana.

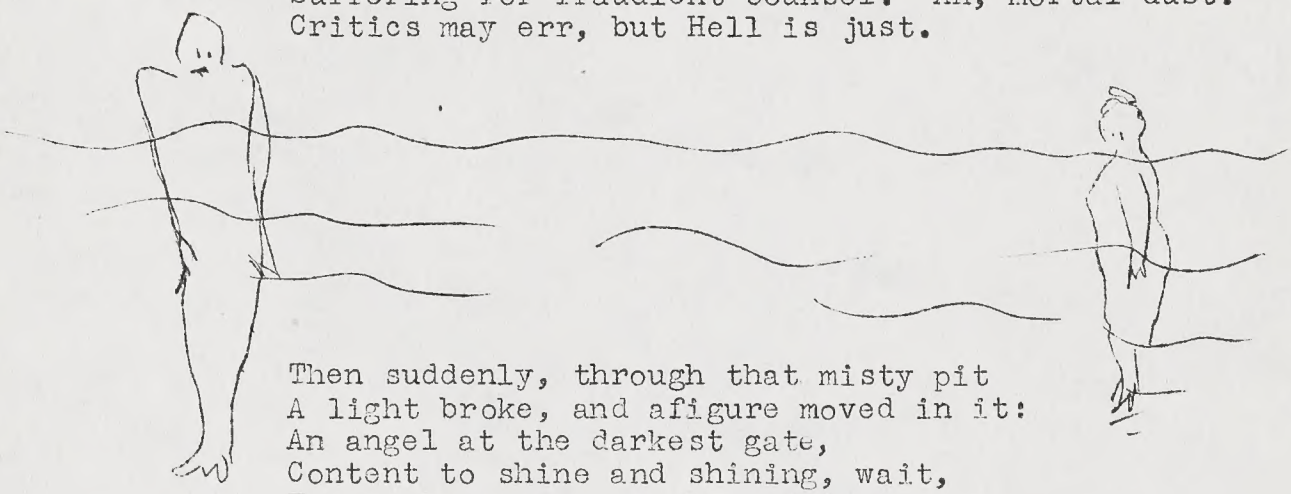
Beyond him I saw Fletcher in a cage
Of glowing bars: green, purple, yellow, blue,
Pink, orange, heliotrope, mauve saffron sage -
It glowed and burned. And demons squeezed him through
The branding bars. This was the multitude
Of neon imps that punished plaiditude.





Deeper and deeper through the pits of vice,
Past lakes of fire and hills of ice,
Past the sinks of every crime,
Past every sin of prose and rhyme,
From doom to doom we press, till in one pit
A million publishers and editors sit
Cutting each others' throats. And here apart
With all who have done violence to art,
His severed head his only throne,
The King of Hell holds court: All hail, King Sloane!

One lower crypt remains. There squeezed between
Gigantic pincersslie Alan and Nannine,
Ten percent in ice, ninety in fire,
They live forever in a brimstone mire,
Suffering for fraudlent counsel. Ah, mortal dust!
Critics may err, but Hell is just.



Then suddenly, through that misty pit
A light broke, and afigure moved in it:
An angel at the darkest gate,
Content to shine and shining, wait,
For souls to come to her advice,
And so be led to Paradise.